

DISASTER DECLARATION

2024 SEP 25 pm 12:05

**BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
DATE ORDER ISSUED: SEPTEMBER 25th, 2024**

DELIA BRIONES
COUNTY CLERK
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on May 31, 2021, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the surge of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas–Mexico border posed an ongoing and imminent threat of disaster for a number of Texas counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s disaster proclamation includes El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, since 2021, the El Paso County District Attorney’s Border Prosecution Unit has filed more than 3,000 cases involving human smuggling, drugs, and a variety of other crimes in connection with Operation Lone Star (“OLS”); and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Judge has determined that these crimes pose an ongoing and imminent threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Judge has also determined that processing these crimes, including arrest, incarceration, and potential prosecution, has resulted in an unsustainable financial burden on El Paso County, costing the County millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, because of the lack of jail beds, El Paso County has struggled to fulfill its contract with the US Marshal Service, which has resulted in El Paso County foregoing more than \$14,000,000 in revenue since 2021; and

WHEREAS, OLS funds will provide limited relief to the overwhelming financial burden placed on an already economically disadvantaged community; and

WHEREAS, I am issuing this disaster declaration because it is required to be eligible to receive OLS funds; and

WHEREAS, I am also issuing this disaster declaration pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418, which authorizes the issuance of a local disaster declaration when there is an occurrence or imminent threat of loss of property resulting from a man-made cause.

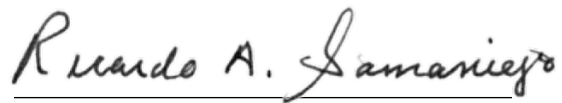
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY ISSUE THIS DISASTER DECLARATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 418.108(A) OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE AND FURTHER FIND AND ORDER:

1. This Order shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

2. The prior Disaster Declaration issued by the County Judge on July 23rd, 2024 and continued by the El Paso County Commissioners Court on July 29th, 2024 shall stand superseded.
3. This Order will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the El Paso County Commissioners Court.
4. This order shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

ORDERED this the 25th day of September, 2024.

COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS



Ricardo A. Samaniego,
El Paso County Judge